

PLUS TREE CLEANING  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
South Douglas Resource Area  
EA# OR105-95-16

Date Prepared: November 2, 1995

**Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record**

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

The South Douglas Resource Area, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, has completed the environmental analysis (EA) on the Plus Tree Cleaning located throughout the resource area. The description of the Proposed Action is on page one of the EA.

There were five Cultural Resource sites identified within the project area. In all five cases, falling the competing trees around the plus trees can be done without damage to the sites. Yarding the felled trees near these sites will be prohibited. This mitigation will, assure that no unique characteristics would be impacted (CEQ Regulations, section 1508.27(b)(3 & 8)). The plus trees are not within the proximity of wetlands, park lands, prime farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers. There were no Native American religious concerns identified through scoping which occurred through the Summer 1995 Roseburg BLM Planning Update.

There were no special status plant populations observed in the project area and no mitigation is required. Fifty nine plus trees are located in Riparian Reserves. Because the area being cleared around each plus tree is small (approx. 0.06 acres) and the plus trees are scattered throughout the resource area, there would be no significant impacts to the riparian and stream function in the vicinity of the plus trees. The action will not appreciably reduce the survival or recovery of cutthroat trout or coastal coho salmon within the watershed(s), thus the species will not be jeopardized by this action.

Trees will be removed from within the core areas of two northern spotted owl sites. Habitat function will not be adversely impacted because of the scattered nature and small size of the clearing areas. Cleaning around five of the plus trees will occur prior to March 1 or after the sites have been cleared for spotted owl nesting. The action will not have an adverse impact on the marbled murrelet or its habitat. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon have the potential to occur in the project areas. The potential for adverse impacts on these species is minimal. The project area is beyond the range of the Columbian white-tailed deer. No significant adverse impacts would occur to the spotted owl or other special status species (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(9)).

Of the ten points under section 1508.27(b), the following will not be discussed further for these reasons, there are: no significant effects on public health or safety; no highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment; no highly uncertain or unknown risks; no significant cumulative effects; no precedents for future actions; and no violations of Federal, State, or local laws.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA (pp. 2-4), I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impacts on the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

**Decision:**

It is my decision to authorize cleaning around approximately 160 Plus Trees to remove competing trees. Approximately 60 of the Plus Trees are within Riparian Reserves. Where there is a lack of large woody debris in the reserve, some of the felled trees would be left on site to enhance that component of the stand. Approximately 20 trees are considerable distance from roads and skid trails and would require the construction of new roads. The trees felled on these sites will be left as down woody debris and the need for road building will be eliminated.

The mitigation, are listed on pages 2-4 of the environmental assessment (EA) and will be formulated into contract stipulations and implemented on site during project implementation.

**Rationale for Decision:**

The decision is based on the following criteria: the project is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995. It meets the objectives of the Forest Genetics Program (ROD/RMP, p.155) by providing seed production and developing genetically improved materials. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy will be met or exceeded (ROD/RMP, p. 19). The project specifically provides the opportunity to maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian zones. Where instream structure is lacking, trees of an appropriate diameter will be felled to span stream channels to provide instream structure and sediment storage in the future. The Best Management Practices (BMP's) listed in Appendix D of the ROD/RMP (p.130-131) were used to develop project design features to mitigate impacts.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Monitoring would be conducted as per the guidance given in the ROD and the PRMP/FEIS. The project area will continue to be surveyed for spotted owls.



Alan Wood, Area Manager  
South Douglas Resource Area

11-2-95  
Date